

# Sophia Mundi Newsletter

## Term I Week 1, 2018



Greetings Parents and Community,  
Happy New Year and welcome to our new school year, with all the excitement and energy that the start of the academic year is to bring!

I am looking forward to welcoming our students (including over 50 new students) to the School next week. As always, parents are encouraged to meet and greet one another, make introductions and build connections so our children feel the warmth of the classroom and the community itself.

Good news is that a number of classes are now full. To strengthen our inclusive education and cater to the ever-increasing demand for Steiner Education at Sophia Mundi we plan to manage wait lists and interviews more effectively this year. To this end, Prep 2019 interviews will start this Term, with offers sent out in May 2018.

I am pleased to announce that we've managed to keep the fee increase to 2%, thanks to the influence of our dedicated team of teachers. In the future, if there is an opportunity to reduce fees or keep them stagnate, this will continue. However, it depends on enrolments, which must of course align with our philosophical and educational approach.

Sophia Mundi has many openings for parents and guardians to explore and learn alongside their children and become involved in the life of Sophia Mundi. A list of just some of these Educational journeys are on the following page. The first of these is the **Working Bee on Saturday 27 January from 7.30am to tidy the School for the start of Term.** Due to the heat we will start and finish early. Robin Power is coordinating these this year ( add in how he would like to be contacted) Working bees are great ways to support students transitioning back to School and building connections across the age groups.

Building on the announcement of the class of 2017 IB Diploma results, we welcome six new students into our Diploma programme this year. The word is out about what a Steiner IB can look like -inclusive access arrangements, dedicated teachers and impressive results (which won't be shared this year as I believe our children are so much more than ATARs and there are privacy consent issues). We are of course still working on new approaches to courses and searching for practical life experiences

Next Newsletter deadline: Tues, 06 Feb.

IMPORTANT DATES: Please also see our online website calendar

### UPCOMING DATES:

- Fri 26 Jan Australia Day Public Holiday
- Sat 27 Jan Community Working Bee, 7:30am - 3pm
- Mon 29 Jan Cls II IB Student Orientation, 9am-12:30pm
- Tue 30 Jan First student day, Classes 2 - 12
- Wed 31 Jan First Day, Prep and Class I & Welcome Morning Tea
- Tues 06 Feb Staff First Aid training, 3:30-7:30pm
- Wed 07 Feb P&F Gathering - Class Carers welcome, 7pm
- Thu 08 Feb School Photographs 8:15am-2:15pm
- Fri, 16 Feb Community Evening, 7pm - Pizza Evening

where our senior students can put their design, scientific and artistic experimental explorations into practice.

VET is also high on my agenda. This is a complicated political situation which we continue to explore. This year the following strategies will be in place to support Teaching and Learning across the school. Matthew Cunnane will be working with teachers and students alike. Educational Assistants will be working across the school, there will be Maths Enrichment for Middle School as well as education classes for support and enrichment in either group or individual classes, Individual Educational Plan (IEPs) developments, bench marking in Literacy and Mathematics (please ask your teacher for this data if you are interested) and the Extra Lesson. Until we find a new Extra Lesson teacher Maria Fraser has kindly agreed to continue working with the children.

Finally, I share these words from Dr Steiner that I often meditate on:

**Imbue thyself with the power of imagination,  
Have courage for the truth  
Sharpen thy feeling for responsibility of soul**

I look forward to catching up with you, your families and our staff at School during 2018.

Warmly,

Fiona Cock – Principal



Sophia Mundi Staff: creative painting on our Professional Development Day



Sophia Mundi Steiner School

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@sophiamundisteinerschool

## TERM 1, 2018: KEY DATES

Mon, 29 Jan	IB Student Orientation Morning, 9am
Tues, 30 Jan	First Student Day, Term 1 Cls 2 – 12
Wed, 31 Jan	First Student Day, Prep/Class 1 & Welcome Morning Tea
Wed, 7 Feb	Parents & Friends (P&F), 7pm Class Carers are welcome to attend
Thu, 8 Feb	School Photos, from 8:45am
Tues, 13 Feb	Festival - Shrove Tuesday
Fri, 16 Feb	Community Evening, 7pm Pizza Evening
Fri, 23 Feb	Interim Reports Due (Cl 7-12)
Tues, 6 Mar	Interview Evening - Secondary
Mon, 12 Mar	<i>Labour Day (Public Holiday)</i>
Tues, 13 Mar	Community Conversation, 7pm Parent Engagement Workshop
Thu, 22 Mar	Grandparents Morning, Prep/Cls 1
Wed, 28 Mar	Prep Festival Prep Last Day of Term 1
Thu, 29 Mar	Last Student Day, Term 1 Cls 1-12 Harvest Festival

## LOOKING INTO 2018 Class Carers

If are you are curious about being a Class Carer for 2018, please contact your Class Teacher to register your interest.

## Sophia Mundi's Parents & Friends

Would you like to be more involved with the wider School Community and School Activities?

### First P&F meeting for 2018:

**Wed 07 Feb, 7pm**

Everyone invited! Class Carers are welcome to attend.

### Community gatherings:

**Pizza Evening - Fri, 16 Feb, 6pm**

## CANTEEN- TERM 1, 2018 Starting Wk 2: Wednesday, 07 Feb

Canteen is now on a Wednesday, so menu orders due by Tuesday each week please. Volunteers welcome!

Volunteers please email [Bette bette@organicsoul.com.au](mailto:Bette bette@organicsoul.com.au)

## SHARED EDUCATIONAL JOURNEYS

Sophia Mundi has many openings for parents and guardians to explore and learn alongside their children, and become involved in the life of Sophia Mundi. Please let your Class Teacher and/or the Office know what you are interested in.

A list of just some of these shared Educational journeys are:

- **Working Bees.** Robin Power is the 2018 coordinator. Working Bees are great ways to support students transitioning back to School and to build connections across the age groups.
- **Parents and Friends (P&F):** First gathering is on Wednesday 07 Feb, 7pm - Class Carers welcome
- **Class Carers network**
- **Parent evenings** with class teacher/guardian's each Term (*see the School Calendar*)
- **Grandparent days.** Prep and Class 1 (*see the School Calendar*)
- **Community Conversations: First gathering Tues 12 March, 7pm.** The theme this year is Social and Information Technology and the Human Being.
- **Performing Arts evenings:** Theatre, plays, music, circus and more.
- **Festivals -** Seasonal and Class based (*see the School Calendar for dates*)
- **Canteen** (2018 Term 1: on Wednesdays)
- **Music ensembles**
- **Parent College**
- **Library**
- **Camps** (*you will need to book in early!*)



*Sophia Mundi Staff: creative painting on our Professional Development Day*



## WELCOME - 2018 Sophia Mundi Board

It is a great pleasure to welcome you - either to the school as a new family or as one of our families established in the Sophia Mundi community.

I sense already new energy around the school brought by our new teachers and also our Assistant Principal, Matthew Cunnane. Fiona has attracted a very capable Assistant Principal to support her in the Principal role. This is a key appointment from the school's perspective. Having worked together on the Steiner Education Australia executive, we are confident Matthew and Fiona will effectively hit the ground running and we look forward to this partnership developing.

We are starting the year with healthy class sizes and a strong cohort of students and in the first term, we will be blessed with some international students who will further enrich our already diverse cultural environment.

A need from improved communication throughout the school was a significant factor in the

feedback we received from the community last year. Some examples of things being reviewed in detail to make them better include the way that class meetings between teachers and parents are held, the way challenging class situations are communicated and the allocation of responsibilities. The school has also engaged a specialist to help us improve our internal and external communication and also to strengthen our marketing activity. We trust you will notice positive differences as the changes the management team and the board are implementing bed down.

The board members are very much looking forward to meeting you through-out the year, whether it be at a working bee, welcome Pizza evening or on another occasion. Our next communication in the newsletter will introduce you to the board members and the role we play.

*Robin Power, Director, Chair of Board -  
Sophia Mundi Limited*

## WORKING BEE Saturday 27th January 7.30am-3pm



To get the School grounds and classrooms ready for the term, we would love your assistance helping get all the

work done so the school is looking and feeling its best when all the children arrive for the beginning of Term.

The Working Bee are a wonderful opportunity to get to know others in the school community, develop new skills and enjoy some delicious vegetarian food, prepared on the day. A special thanks to chef, Eleni Kondos, for making this happen.

Here are the activities for this Working Bee:

- Gardening / weeding
- Cleaning sand in sandpits
- Sweeping / raking off basketball courts and sweeping main yard
- Whipper snipper / mowing
- Tanbark spreading

- Painting / maintenance of concrete framed benches
- Repairing red gum tables and benches
- Repairing ropes around fern trees and on climbing frame
- Finishing the climbing frame at the back of the leaves
- Finishing the steel wiring for the climbers above the sandpit
- Helping class teachers get their classrooms ready for the Term
- Preparing food and drinks to feed and water the other willing helpers.

From the weather forecast, it looks as though its going to be pretty warm on the day so we would suggest coming early so you can benefit from working in the cooler part of the day. Please remember to be SunSmart and wear hats and sunscreen. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Robin Power +61 404 114 751  
robin.power@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au*



<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Wednesday 24 &amp; Thursday, 24 January Staff Curriculum Days</b>	
	Saturday, 27 January	Working Bee – Whole Community
	Monday, 29 January	Curriculum Day / <b>IB Student Orientation Morning</b>
	<b>Tuesday, 30 January</b>	<b>First student day, Term 1: Classes 2 – 12</b>
	<b>Wednesday, 31 January</b>	<b>First Day, Prep and Class 1 &amp; Welcome Morning Tea</b>
	Thursday, 8 February	School Photos
	Tuesday, 13 February	Shrove Tuesday
	Friday, 16 February	Community Evening (Pizza Evening)
	Friday, 23 February	Interim Reports Due (CI 7-12)
	Tuesday, 6 March	Interview Evening - Secondary Classes
	Monday, 12 March	<i>Labour Day (Public Holiday)</i>
	Tuesday, 13 March	Community Conversation: Parent Engagement Workshop
	Thursday, 22 March	Grandparents Morning: Prep and Class 1
	Wednesday, 28 March	Prep Festival and last Prep day of Term 1
	<b>Thursday, 29 March</b>	<b>Last student day of Term 1 and Harvest Festival</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Monday, 16 April</b>	<b>First student day, Term 2</b>
	Wednesday, 25 April	<i>ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)</i>
	Tuesday, 1 May	Secondary Information Evening
	Friday, 4 May	Lantern Walk (Primary Festival)
	Monday, 21 May	Report Writing Day (Student Holiday)
	Thursday, 31 May	All Reports Due (P-10)
	Monday, 11 June	<i>Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)</i>
	Wednesday, 20 June	Prep Festival and last Prep day of Term 2
	<b>Thursday, 21 June</b>	<b>Last student of Term 2 and Winter Spiral</b>
	<b>Friday, 22 June</b>	<b>Primary and Secondary Interview Day</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Thursday, 12 &amp; Friday 13 July Staff Curriculum Days Curriculum Days</b>	
	<b>Monday, 16 July</b>	<b>First student day, Term 3</b>
	TBC 17 August	Victorian Steiner Schools' PD (Student Holiday P-10)
	TBC 20 August	Mid-term break
	Tuesday, 18 September	Annual Music Concert
	Wednesday, 19 September	Prep Festival and last prep day of Term 3
	<b>Thursday, 20 September</b>	<b>Last student day of Term 3 and Spring Festival</b>
	<b>Friday, 21 September</b>	<b>Curriculum Day</b>
<b>Term 4</b>	<b>Monday, 8 October</b>	<b>First student day, Term 4</b>
	Thursday, 11 October	Class 8 Project Presentations
	Friday, 19 October	Last Day for Class 12
	Monday, 5 November	Report Writing Day (Student Holiday)
	Tuesday, 6 November	<i>Melbourne Cup Day (Public Holiday)</i>
	Saturday, 10 November	Working Bee – Open Day setup
	<b>Sunday, 11 November</b>	<b>Open Day &amp; Spring Fair</b>
	Monday, 12 November	Fair Recovery Day (Student Holiday)
	Friday, 16 November	Class 12 Valedictory Evening
	Saturday, 24 November	Prep Orientation
	Monday, 26 November	All Reports Due (P-11)
	<b>Wednesday, 12 December</b>	<b>Prep Summer Festival and last Prep day</b>
	<b>Last student day of Term 4 (CI 1 – 11) and Christmas Performance</b>	
	<b>Thursday 13 &amp; Friday, 14 December Staff Curriculum Days</b>	

+Staff Documentation Days on Monday – 25 June, 24 September and 17 December.

For up to date details please check the online calendar: [www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au/calendar](http://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au/calendar)